

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 14, 18 and 20 as shown in the following listing of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method of network management in a network
2 comprising a plurality of access points, comprising:
3 monitoring a communication channel between a mobile device and a first
4 access point in a wireless local area network (WLAN) by the first access point to
5 determine whether a trigger event ~~occurs~~, occurs; and
6 if the trigger event is determined to have ~~occurred~~, occurred:
7 sending a switch-assessment request from the first access point to
8 one or more other access points of the plurality of access ~~points~~ points;
9 receiving a switch-assessment response from at least one of the one
10 or more other access ~~points~~ points;
11 selecting a select access point from the at least one of the one or
12 more other access points based on the switch-assessment response;
13 sending a switch-command from the first access point to the mobile
14 device to establish a communication channel between the mobile device and the
15 select access point; ~~and~~
16 ~~the first access point~~ maintaining a message buffer for the mobile
17 device by the first access point until the switch of the mobile device from the first
18 access point to the select access point is complete; and
19 defining a plurality of access classifications associated with the
20 mobile device and at least one of the one or more access points of the plurality of
21 access points and selecting the select access point based at least in part on one or
22 more access ~~classifications~~, classifications,
23 wherein the trigger event is determined based in part on a determination of
24 a direction of movement of the mobile device by the first access point by
25 estimating a location of the mobile device using one or more reports from at least

26 one switch-assist device that monitors communications from the mobile device,
27 the location of the at least one switch-assist device being known to the first access
28 point.

29 ~~wherein the trigger event is initially determined by the first access point~~
30 ~~without receiving a request to switch from the mobile device; and~~

31 ~~wherein the access classifications include a path of motion of the mobile~~
32 ~~device.~~

1 2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the trigger event is
2 based at least in part on at least one of: a signal strength of communications from
3 the mobile ~~device~~ device, an error rate associated with communications to the
4 mobile device, and traffic through the first access point.

1 3. (canceled).

1 4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including receiving
2 other information at the first access point regarding communications from the
3 mobile device and determining the direction of movement based at least in part on
4 this other information.

1 5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further including providing
2 configuration information to the mobile device to facilitate establishing the
3 communication channel between the mobile device ~~and~~ and the select access
4 point.

1 6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, further including receiving
2 the configuration information from the select access point.

1 7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including sending
2 periodic messages from the mobile device to the first access point to facilitate the
3 monitoring of the communications channel between the mobile device and the
4 first access point.

1 8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the switch-
2 assessment request includes sending parameters associated with the mobile device
3 to the one or more other access points.

1 9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein selecting the select
2 access point is based at least in part on at least one of: a compatibility between the
3 mobile device and the select access point, traffic at the select access point traffic
4 of the mobile device, and a predicted path of the mobile device.

1 10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the access
2 classifications include preferred, acceptable, forbidden, subscription level, and
3 quality-of-service parameters.

1 11. (currently amended) An access point device comprising:
2 a trigger control module that is configured to determine a ~~triggering~~ trigger
3 event and initiate a transfer of ~~the~~ a mobile device to a selected access point
4 device of other access point devices in wireless local area network (WLAN) when
5 the trigger event occurs,
6 a first transceiver that is configured to provide a communication channel
7 with said trigger control module; and
8 a switch control module that is configured to effect the transfer of the
9 mobile device to the selected access point device of other access point devices,
10 wherein the switch control module is configured to: send a switch-
11 assessment request to one or more other access point ~~devices~~ devices, receive a
12 switch-assessment response from at least one of the one or more other access
13 point ~~devices~~ devices, select a select access point device from the at least one of
14 the one or more other access point devices based on the switch-assessment
15 ~~response~~ responses, send a switch-command to the mobile device ~~[[a]]~~ via the first
16 transceiver to establish a communication channel between the mobile device and
17 the select access point device, and for determining a classification of the mobile
18 device and at least one of the one or more other access ~~point devices~~ points
19 relative to the mobile device from a plurality of access classifications and for

20 selecting the select access point device based at least in part on one or more
21 access ~~classifications~~; classifications,
22 wherein the trigger event is determined based in part on a determination of
23 a direction of movement of the mobile device by the trigger control module by
24 estimating a location of the mobile device using one or more reports from at least
25 one switch-assist device in the WLAN that monitors communications from the
26 mobile device, the location of the at least one switch-assist device being known to
27 the access point device.
28 ~~wherein the trigger event is initially determined by the first access point~~
29 ~~without receiving a request to switch from the mobile device; and~~
30 ~~wherein the access classifications include a path of motion of the mobile~~
31 ~~device.~~

1 12. (previously presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the trigger control
2 module is configured to initiate the transfer based at least in part on at least one
3 of: a signal strength of communications from the mobile device, an error rate
4 associated with communications to the mobile device and traffic through the first
5 access point device.

1 13. (canceled).

1 14. (currently amended) The device of claim 11, further including a second
2 transceiver that is configured to receive other information regarding
3 communications from the mobile ~~device~~ device, wherein determining the direction
4 of movement is based at least in part on this other information; and
5 a message buffer associated with the access point device for buffering data
6 for the mobile device until the switch control module confirms the transfer to the
7 selected access point device is complete.

1 15. (previously presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the switch control
2 module is further configured to provide configuration information to the mobile

3 device to facilitate establishing the communication channel between the mobile
4 device and the select access point device

1 16. (previously presented) The device of claim 15, wherein the switch control
2 module is further configured to receive the configuration information from the
3 select access point device.

1 17. (previously presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the switch-
2 assessment request includes parameters associated with the mobile device.

1 18. (currently amended) The device of claim 17, wherein the switch control
2 module is configured to select the select access point device based at least in part
3 on at least one of: a compatibility between the mobile device and the select access
4 point ~~device~~ device, and traffic at the select access point device traffic of the
5 mobile device.

1 19. (previously presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the switch control
2 module is further configured to select the select access point device based at least
3 in part on an access classification associated with the mobile device and at least
4 one of the one or more other access point devices.

1 20. (currently amended) The device of claim 11, wherein the switch control
2 module is further configured to ~~selected~~ select the select access point device based
3 at least in part on: a geographic location of the select access point device and a
4 predicted travel path of the mobile device.